

Hunting - the call for justice

A year ago on the 9th of February, an 18 year old hunt saboteur was killed whilst trying to prevent a van of beagles from being driven to a hunt location; he was crushed between the van and the trailer in an attempt to leap off to safety (the driver was doing 40 mph around twisting country lanes hoping to throw off the saboteurs). Susan Stonard reports:

Mike Hill became the first ever hunt saboteur to die whilst protesting against the hunters - namely the Cheshire Beagles Hunt. Since the tragedy, no member of the hunt has been arrested or even accused of his murder. At the inquest, a verdict of accidental death was returned.

As if Mike's family, friends and colleagues have not suffered enough on top of this apparent miscarriage of justice, the Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre in Liverpool where Mike worked has since been the target of the most foul and distressing hate calls from hunters at all hours of the day and night.

The Freshfields Animal Rescue



Greening the Union

After a conversation with a member of your group today, I agreed to send a paper outlining exactly what the Union is doing with regards to being more environmentally friendly.

- All offices have a 'green bin' into which all waste paper is put and is taken away every week to be recycled.
- The paper used in the photocopier is recycled.
- There is a skip for aluminium cans outside the Union front door.
- We have converted to milk bottles as far as possible. Unfortunately, we have to keep the half pint milk cartons in the shop and the bars because people complain about having to buy a full bottle when they only want a small drink.
- We attempted to convert the minibuses to unleaded but it is not compatible with a catalytic converter. This will be borne in mind when we eventually buy a new one.
- Whenever possible the train is to be used instead of aeroplane. Flights may only be used if there is no feasible rail link.
- We now use polystyrene CFC free cups internally instead of the plastic ones.
- All brown envelopes are made from recycled

groups existing in Britain today, with as many as 50 or 60 hunts taking place every week. Although pro-hunt groups such as the British Fieldsports Association claim that foxhunting is more popular than ever before (the society sent me a glossy brochure entitled 'The Case for Hunting', which suggested that "it is an important part of the social fabric of Britain ... giving pleasure to a large section of the rural community.") foxhunts are closing all the time due to lack of support. The Galloway based Wigtownshire hunt recently became defunct because as the secretary said, "We just don't have enough people any longer."

A recent Gallup opinion poll showed that 80% of the British public were opposed to foxhunting, which has led to the introduction of an all-party Private Members Bill to ban all hunting practices. The bill was ruled out but may be given a second hearing.

It is only through legislation like this that the cruel practice of hunting will be abolished once and for all. Hunters arguments range from "the

accused of murder and brought to justice. It is generally believed that the police have turned a blind eye to Mike's death whilst quibbling over hunt saboteurs for any minor incident, they are much slower to take action against the hunters themselves - who have to be the real criminals.

There are over 200 active foxhunt



It's funny but I do miss the hunting
PRO HUNTING PUBLICITY

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fox enjoys the chase" (so would you enjoy being pursued by a pack of bloodthirsty hounds only to be torn to pieces by them) to, "Hunting is a great tradition" (an upper class tradition that has no place in contemporary society).

It is clear that the real cruelty of foxhunting lies in the terror, exhaustion and trauma inflicted on the victim. Yet still the hunt members justify their 'sport'. And the story doesn't end there; according to the League Against Cruel Sports, "Hunting is riddled with officials, members and supporters who have been convicted of cruelty to animals."

As many hunters suggested, "hunting may be in the blood" but it should not be paid for by the blood of the thousands of foxes that are slaughtered annually, and certainly not with the life of an 18 year old peaceful protestor. I spoke to the secretary of the Cheshire Hunt, a Mr J M McMahon, and when I asked him if the hunt had any trouble with hunt saboteurs, he became very vague, and replied, I quote, "No. No problems that I can recall."

The Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre has set up a memorial fund that has paid for a new sanctuary at the Centre. Also, in commemoration of Mike's death, there was a Week of Action against the Cheshire Hunt, and a demonstration at their Hunt Ball. A wreath was laid on the spot where Mike died. When I asked what Lesley and the Centre wanted most, she replied, "Only that he (Mike) is not forgotten. Secondly, he would have wanted to pursue the truth and gain justice for his death. Lastly he would have demanded that the Cheshire Hunt be stopped completely, never again allowed to hunt. Nothing less will ever compensate for his killing."

"Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission - to be of service to them whenever they require it."

St Francis of Assisi
Hunt Saboteurs Society.

Susan Stonard

Useful Addresses

Hunt Saboteurs Association
PO Box 1, Carlton
Nottingham NG4 2JY

Mike Hill Memorial Fund
Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre
East Lodge Farm
Face Blundell
LIVERPOOL L25 3EH

League Against Cruel Sports
Spitting House
83-87 Union Street
London SE1 1SG

Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs
PO Box 180
Glasgow G4 9AB

Advocates for Animals
10 Queensferry Street
Edinburgh EH2 4JY

Animal Concern (Scotland)
62 Old Dumbarton Road
Glasgow G3 9BE

LYNX
PO Box 500
Nottingham
NG1 5EN

Vegetarian Society (Scotland)
c/o E Park
49 Melville Road
Paisley PA3 4RT

Allison Brodie, VPI

13 March 1992

Dear Clydeside Hunt Sabs,

I am sending you a copy of the article that I wrote concerning the Mike Hill incident, I hope that you agree it is important to publicize his death in the hope that more people will become involved in relevant organisations to stop hunting practises and perhaps donate to his memorial fund.

I hope you find the piece intersting to read,

Yours sincereley,



Suzan Stonard...FEATURES EDITOR